

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Decision on Appeal mailed September 29, 2003 from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the above captioned patent application and to subsequent discussions with the Examiner. In that Decision, the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) over Root was sustained. The rejection of Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite was also sustained. However, the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Root was not sustained.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the language of Claim 21 and to describe the coating as facilitating cleaning, as disclosed in the specification at Page 11, lines 12-14. Claim 1 has also been amended with the language suggested by the Board to overcome the rejection of original Claim 1 under Section 112. Thus Claim 1 is believed in condition for allowance. Claim 4, dependent on Claim 1, has been amended as suggested by the Board to overcome the rejection under Section 112. Claims 6, 7 and 20, each dependent on Claim 1, have been amended to be consistent with Claim 1. Claims 9 and 11, previously noted as containing patentable subject matter, have each been rewritten as independent claims incorporating each and every element of Claim 1 from which they previously depended, as modified in accordance with the suggestion of the Board to comply with Section 112. Claims 3, 5, 8 and 10, previously withdrawn, are requested to be considered as Claim 1, from which each claim depends, is believed generic. Claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 have been amended to be consistent with Claim 1.

Claims 12-19 and 21-23 have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application. No fees are believed necessary for the proper filing of this Amendment. However, if any fees are necessary, including any extension fees under Rule 136, please withdraw such fees as are necessary from Deposit Account 50-1274(12643/210).

Respectfully submitted,



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